



County of San Diego

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RECEIVED

July 13, 2010

The Honorable Kevin Enright
Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

JUL 22 2010

SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

Dear Judge Enright,

On July 13, 2010, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved responses to nine Grand Jury reports that addressed findings and recommendations to the County of San Diego. The Board further directed that these responses be sent to your office. The reports for which responses are attached are titled:

- Ethical Political Practices-Enforcement of Campaign and Lobbying Laws
- Transitional Age Youth: Navigating a Difficult Course to Independent Living
- Homeless in San Diego
- San Diego County Detention Facility Inspection Report
- Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act
- The Substance Abuse Recovery Management System (SARMS)
- Ethics in Government- Code of Ethics, Internal Control, Fraud Hotlines
- Efficiency in Government-Managed Competition, Outsourcing, Reengineering and Reverse Auction Within San Diego County
- Medical Marijuana in San Diego

The Board is scheduled to consider the County's response to a 10th report titled "Eye Gnats in San Diego County" on August 3, 2010. That response will complete the County's obligations to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury and will be sent to you as soon as Board approval is obtained. If you have any questions, please contact me at (619) 531-5250.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
RESPONSE TO 2009/10 GRAND JURY REPORT
"Homeless in San Diego"
Issued May 17, 2010**

Finding #01: Homelessness in San Diego County is a region-wide problem that calls for region-wide solutions.

Response: Agree.

Finding #03: The PTECH report identified many of the homelessness problems and their solutions; however, the lack of an ongoing source of funding has limited the implementation of the Housing First/Housing Plus Plan.

Response: Agree.

Finding #04: The San Diego region has numerous resources to reduce the impact of homelessness in the community. It is necessary for San Diego governments, homeless service providers and advocates, religious groups, business leaders, and citizens to work cooperatively.

Response: Agree . Numerous resources do exist in the San Diego region to address and impact homelessness in the community. Also, it is necessary for governments, service providers and advocates, religious groups, business leaders and citizens to work together cooperatively. The County will continue to collaborate with the City of San Diego, community-based service providers, the Regional Continuum of Care Council, and others, to address homelessness in the community.

Finding #05: Many chronic homeless in San Diego County do not have shelter at night.

Response: Agree.

Finding #06: A multitude of homeless service providers exist in San Diego County.

Response: Agree.

Finding #07: A need exists for permanent intake facilities with supportive services.

Response: Agree.

Finding #08: Year-round, temporary homeless shelters with supportive services are critical until permanent facilities are operational. .

Response: Agree.

Finding #13: The current winter shelters, because they are seasonal, do not adequately support the chronic homeless living on the streets in San Diego.

Response: Disagree partially. The need for winter shelters must be evaluated against other identified best practices that consider the individual's situation, such as the Housing First model designed to support individuals who traditionally have been difficult to house. Winter shelters only address temporary needs, as opposed to long-term housing solutions.

Finding #14: Many of the homeless sleep on the sidewalks and in doorways throughout the City.

Response: Agree.

Finding #16: To effectively address the human needs of these individuals, on-site social services must be provided at homeless shelters including medical care, mental health counseling, employment counseling and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medi-Cal enrollment support.

Response: Disagree partially. Although on-site services are essential, in many cases, the availability of services is dependent on the capacity of the vendors selected by the City to run the homeless shelters. Further, the use of technology in delivering services is an increasingly important factor for determining the extent services that are needed on-site.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the Mayor of the City of San Diego, the City Council of the City of San Diego, and the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego:

Recommendation 10-24: Form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and enlist the support of the leaders in other cities in the County to develop a regional approach to manage and fund programs to moderate chronic homelessness.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The County's Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of Housing and Community Development continue to support and actively participate in ongoing collaborative efforts with the City of San Diego and community-based service providers through the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, the Regional Continuum of Care Council, and the Plan To End Chronic Homelessness (PTECH). These activities support the development of strategies to manage and fund programs for moderate chronic homelessness.

Recommendation 10-26: Organize a consortium of the leaders in the San Diego region to meet no less frequently than monthly to determine the direction on reducing homelessness in the San Diego region. This consortium shall work in concert with the regional authority that is formed based on Recommendations 10-24 and 10-25.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The County's Health and Services Agency and the Department of Housing and Community Development collaborate on a number of levels with a multitude of public and private agencies to address the issue of homelessness in the San Diego region. In addition, Health and Human Services Agency Executives have participated on PTECH executive committees since its inception.

The 2009/2010 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

Recommendation 10-32: Instruct the Director of the Health and Human Services Agency to provide services when the year-round shelters are established, to support the following: Medical Care, Mental Health care, Substance Abuse counseling, Assistance in enrolling persons in federal programs such as Social Security Income (SSI) and Medi-Cal.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The timeframe for a thorough analysis cannot be determined at this point as the vendor for the City's year-round shelter has not yet been selected. HHSA's support of the aforementioned services is dependent upon the capacity of the vendor selected, as well as the availability of resources evaluated against competing priorities.
